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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,767	02/23/2004	Yasuhiro Esaki	26001	7653
20529	7590	08/08/2007		
NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314			EXAMINER WILLIAMS, KEVIN D	
			ART UNIT 2854	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/08/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/782,767

Applicant(s)

ESAKI, YASUHIRO

Examiner

Kevin D. Williams

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-12, and 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1 and 16, lines 20-21 recite "one of said two work processes includes a stencil making process of stencil making based on data received and a printing process of printing the data." It is unclear how the stencil making process and the printing process are together a single "work process." In claim 1, line 2, the printing processes appear to each be defined as a single "work process." Therefore it is unclear in claim 1, at lines 20-21, how a printing process together with a stencil making process can be defined as a single "work process."

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota (US 2002/0029703) in view of Kanno (US 2003/0127001), and further in view of Starr (US 5,305,238).

Kubota teaches a process progress display device displaying progress status of a plurality of work processes including at least one printing process and one related process ([0105]; stencil making) incorporating processing of data for transfer to media, wherein at least two of the work processes include operations distinct from a different one of the work processes and which are performed in a processing apparatus individually or continuously, the process progress display device comprising: a work process progress display unit (52;[0085]) configured to display a progress status of each work process ([0061] – [0071]), wherein at least one work process is different from another work process (each page is different); a work process stop display unit 83 corresponding to each work process, making a display 83 as to whether the processing apparatus is to be stopped or a work process scheduled to be subsequently performed is to be continuously executed in accordance with a work process to be executed at an end of the work process, wherein the work process stop display unit dynamically expresses 83 the work processes under progress by combinations of one of stop status (presence of display 83) and continuous status (no display 83 present); and a control unit (CPU 53) configured to control contents of the display of the work process progress display unit in accordance with the progress status of each work process and sequentially updates the contents of the display on the work process progress display unit, wherein the control unit selects at least one work process as an automatic default,

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the work process progress display unit and the work process stop display unit make a display in association with another display unit 51, the another display unit 51 comprises a start key to start processing upon being pressed ([0051]), the process progress display device 52 is included in a stencil printing machine ([0085]) including a stencil making process of perforating a stencil sheet based on image information and a printing process of performing stencil printing on a printing medium by use of the stencil sheet for which the stencil making has already been performed, and displays the progress statuses of the stencil making process and the printing process, the stencil printing machine includes a plurality of printing drums (Fig. 1), and performs the stencil printing independently for each of the printing drums, and the process progress display device displays the progress statuses of the stencil making process and the printing process for each of the printing drums, and the process progress display device is included in an image forming apparatus including a developing process of developing and storing data received from outside and a printing process of printing the data developed and stored in the developing process, and displays progress statuses of the developing process and the printing process, the progress display including displays concerning a printing process of performing stencil printing on a printing medium by use of a stencil sheet for which stencil making was previously performed, and the progress display providing displays concerning a printing process of printing the data developed.

Kubota teaches the claimed invention except for one of said two of the work processes including a stencil making process of stencil making based on data received and a printing process of printing the data developed in the stencil making process, first

and second arrays of light emitting diodes each configured to display a progress status of each work process by combinations of turning on and turning off the respective light emitting diodes in correspondence with a percentage of work completed in each process, displaying a process status of a stencil making process and a printing process simultaneously, the progress display including displays concerning a stencil making process of perforating a stencil sheet based on image formation and displays the progress status of the stencil making process, the progress display concerning a developing process of developing and storing data received from outside and a displaying progress status of the developing process.

Kubota teaches a stencil making process and it appears that the display 162 displays a progress status of the stencil making process and the printing process ([0105]), but Kubota does not expressly disclose this limitation.

Kanno teaches a display displaying a progress status of a stencil making process (indication that key 107 has been pressed indicates continuous printing mode therefore displaying a status of the stencil making process; [0077]) of a stencil making based on data received and a printing process (message indicating a sheet jam during a printing process) of printing the data developed in the stencil making process, displaying a process status of a stencil making process (key 107 as described above) and a printing process (message indicating a sheet jam during a printing process) simultaneously, the progress display including displays concerning a stencil making process (key 107) of perforating a stencil sheet based on image formation and displays the progress status of the stencil making process (key 107 as described above), the progress display

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concerning a developing process 107 of developing and storing data received from outside and a displaying progress status of the developing process (120;[0081]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kubota to have the display device show a progress status of stencil making and printing, in order to provide more information to a user.

Starr teaches a first array of light emitting diodes 78-82 configured to display a progress status of a work process by combinations of turning on and turning off the respective light emitting diodes in correspondence with a percentage of work completed in the process (col. 8, lines 1-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to additionally modify Kubota to have the an array of light emitting diodes for each work process as taught by Starr, in order to inform a user of how much of the process has been completed.

5. Claim 3, 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota in view Kanno and Starr as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11 and 13-17 above, and further in view of Sato (US 6,401,606).

Kubota in view of Kanno and Starr teaches the claimed invention except for the start key lighting to indicate that it is possible to start the processing displayed on the work process progress display unit and the work process stop display unit, the start key blinking to indicate that a start command for the processing is required, and the start key un-lighting to indicate that it is impossible to start the processing.

Kubota indicates the above conditions through text and other symbols on the screen 65.

Sato teaches the use of lighting and blinking to indicate various conditions to a user (col. 11, lines 58-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to additionally modify Kubota to have the lighting and blinking as taught by Sato, in order to reduce the amount of text and the number of symbols used to signal an operator.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin D. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-2172. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.



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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KDW  
August 5, 2007

/Daniel J. Colilla/  
Primary Examiner  
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